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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

INDIAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF MILWAUKEE, INC.

Linda Sue Warner, Ph.D
Chief Executive Officer

September 25, 2002

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Sir/Madam:

On behalf of the Urban Indian Education Research Center, I would like to nominate Karen Buller for the reappointment to a position representing low-income consumers on the Board of Directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company.

Karen Buller's work in telecommunications on behalf of Native Americans is recognized and respected nationwide. In the field of education I have been pleased to be associated with Buller's groundbreaking work that resulted in culturally appropriate models for technology in Native American classrooms. Ms. Buller is one of a handful of telecommunications experts and one of fewer still who understand the limitations of low-income consumers. Buller's has worked consistently to provide low-income consumers with universal telecommunications services.

Buller's reappointment to the Board of Directors of USAC will insure that Educators such as me and low-income consumers have a genuine, effective and informed voice on this important governing body. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Linda Sue Warner, PhD
Chief Executive Officer

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Karen Radney Buller

Karen Radney Buller is a member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma. She is the President and CEO of the National Indian Telecommunications Institute (NITI), a non-profit organization dedicated to employing advanced technology to serve American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiians in the areas of education, economic development, language and cultural preservation, tribal policy issues and self-determination. Ms. Buller is **an** advocate for education, telecommunications, and Indian issues.

She began her teaching career at Haskell College (now Haskell Indian Nations University). In **1982** Haskell students voted Buller Haskell's outstanding faculty award for her teaching excellence and commitment to Indian students. She has served on many parent and teacher boards in her current home city Santa Fe, **NM** and is well known by New Mexico legislators for her work towards education reform for New Mexico schools.

Buller is a recognized telecommunication expert in Indian Country. She has testified before both houses of the U.S. Congress and the FCC on the Telecommunications Act of **1996** and Universal Service and its impact on Indian communities. Buller is currently serving **as** a member of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors. Buller was nominated by US Senator Pete V. Domenici and appointed by FCC Chairman Michael Powell. USAC governs the E-rate, Lifeline & Link-up and Rural Health programs.

Buller, "**an** early adopter" of the Internet, saw the potential of using the Internet to improve education for all students, but especially for Indian children. Her work at NITI ties together her passions for advancing Indian communities using the power of telecommunications to its fullest potential, and improving education for all children.

NITI's on-going projects continue Buller's efforts to support Indians through the use of advanced technology. Some of these projects are:

- A partnership with the Navajo Education Technology Consortium on a five-year project to provide web-based cultural curriculum training to school districts with high Navajo enrollment in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. This project is funded by a **1998** U.S. Department of Education Technology Education Challenge Grant and a Star Schools Grant.
- NITI is creating an interactive CD of the Comanche Dictionary for the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma. This innovative CD will serve as a model for other tribes also wishing to use technology for language preservation.
- NITI's Virtual Museum Project designed and built a virtual web museum for the New Mexico State Museum of Indian *Arts and Culture* based on their ***Here, Now, and Always*** exhibit (<http://www.herenowalways.org>) which was curated by Native Americans. NITI **also** trained members of New Mexico's **22** tribes to make virtual museums using the ***Here, Now and Always*** model. This project was supported by the US Department of Commerce's Technology Innovation and Infrastructure Assistance (TIAP) Program, The Rockefeller Foundation and Native American Systems, Inc.

- NITI hosted *Digital Council Fires: A Native American Telecommunications Conference*, in 1999 in Albuquerque, **NM**. The conference provided a forum for tribal people to discuss telecommunications access and content issues in Indian Country. Support for the conference **was** provided by the Ford Foundation.
- NITI's Legal Education & Assistance Program for Indian Telecommunications (LEAP IT) provides legal advice and consultation to Indians nationwide on a variety of telecommunications issues. This program is funded by the Ford Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation and the Open Society Institute of the Soros Foundation.
- NITI's publication *Making Technology Our Own, Toward Affordable Connectivity in Indian Country* assists Tribes to make informed decisions about telecommunications issues. **This** publication **was** the result of a 2-year project supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation.